7-2 POSSESSIVE NOUNS

SINGULAR NOUN	POSSESSIVE FORM	
(a) *the girl*	***the girl's***	To show possession, add an apostrophe (') and ***-s*** to a singular noun: *The **girl's** book is on the table.*
(b) *Tom*	***Tom's***	If a singular noun ends in ***-s,*** there are two possible forms: 1. Add an apostrophe and ***-s:*** ***Thomas's*** *book.* 2. Add only an apostrophe: ***Thomas'*** *book.*
(c) *my wife*	***my wife's***	
(d) *a lady*	***a lady's***	
(e) *Thomas*	***Thomas's/Thomas'***	
PLURAL NOUN	POSSESSIVE FORM	
(f) *the girls*	***the girls'***	Add only an apostrophe to a plural noun that ends in ***-s:*** *The **girls'** books are on the table.*
(g) *their wives*	***their wives'***	
(h) *the ladies*	***the ladies'***	
(i) *the men*	***the men's***	Add an apostrophe and ***-s*** to plural nouns that do not end in ***-s:*** *The **men's** books are on the table.*
(j) *my children*	***my children's***	

☐ EXERCISE 4. Possessive nouns. (Chart 7-2)

Directions: Complete the sentences with the possessive form of the nouns in parentheses.

1. *(Mrs. Smith)* __Mrs. Smith's__ husband often gives her flowers.
2. *(boy)* The __________ hat is red.
3. *(boys)* The __________ hats are red.
4. *(children)* The __________ toys are all over the floor.
5. *(child)* I fixed the __________ bicycle.
6. *(baby)* The __________ toys are in the crib.
7. *(babies)* The __________ toys are in their cribs.
8. *(wives)* Tom and Bob are married. Their __________ names are Cindy and Judy, respectively.
9. *(wife)* That is my __________ coat.
10. *(Sally)* __________ last name is White.
11. *(Phyllis)* __________ last name is Young.
12. *(boss)* That's my __________ office.
13. *(bosses)* Those are my __________ offices.
14. *(woman)* This is a __________ purse.
15. *(women)* That store sells __________ clothes.
16. *(sister)* Do you know my __________ husband?
17. *(sisters)* Do you know my __________ husbands?
18. *(yesterday)* Did you read __________ newspaper?
19. *(today)* There are many problems in __________ world.
20. *(month)* It would cost me a __________ salary to buy that refrigerator.

From Azar, B. S. (2002). Understanding and using English grammar: With answer key. Pearson Education.

☐ EXERCISE 5. Possessive nouns. (Chart 7-2)

Directions: Correct the mistakes in the use of possessive nouns by adding apostrophes and final ***-s/-es*** as necessary.

friends'

1. I enjoy visiting ~~friend~~ houses.

friend's

2. When I was in Chicago, I stayed at a ~~friend~~ house.
3. My uncle is my father brother.
4. I have four aunts. All of my aunt homes are within walking distance of my mother apartment.
5. Mike's aunt oldest son is a violinist.
6. Five astronauts were aboard the space shuttle. The astronaut safe return to earth was a welcome sight to millions of television viewers.
7. The children favorite part of the circus was the trapeze act.
8. When the child toy broke, I fixed it.
9. I borrowed the secretary pen to fill out the application form.
10. It is the people right to know what the city is going to do about the housing problem.
11. Bill wife is a factory worker.
12. Bess husband is a housepainter.
13. Quite a few diplomats are assigned to our city. Almost all of the diplomat children attend a special school.
14. A diplomat work invariably involves numerous meetings.

☐ EXERCISE 6. Using apostrophes. (Chart 7-2; Appendix Chart C)

Directions: Add apostrophes as necessary to mark a possessive noun or a contraction.

1. I borrowed my sister's car. It's old but reliable.
2. A polar bears sense of smell is keen. Its ability to smell prey over a mile away is important to its survival in the vast expanses of snow and ice where it lives.
3. Texas is a leading producer of petroleum and natural gas. Its one of the worlds largest storage areas for petroleum.
4. Psychologists have developed many different kinds of tests. A "personality test" is used to evaluate an individuals personal characteristics, such as friendliness or trustworthiness.

From Azar, B. S. (2002). Understanding and using English grammar: With answer key. Pearson Education.

5. Many mythological stories tell of heroes encounters with giants or dangerous animals. In one story, the heros encounter with a dragon saves a village from destruction.

6. Childrens play is an important part of their lives. It teaches them about their environment while theyre having fun. For instance, they can learn that boats float and can practice ways to make boats move across water. Toys are not limited to children. Adults have their own toys, such as pleasure boats, and children have theirs, such as miniature boats. Adults toys are usually much more expensive than childrens toys.

7-3 USING NOUNS AS MODIFIERS

The soup has vegetables in it. (a) It is ***vegetable soup***. The building has offices in it. (b) It is an ***office building***.	When a noun is used as a modifier, it is in its singular form.* In (a): ***vegetable*** modifies ***soup***. In (b): ***office*** modifies ***building***.
The test lasted two hours. (c) It was a ***two-hour test***. Her son is five years old. (d) She has a ***five-year-old son***.	When a noun used as a modifier is combined with a number expression, the noun is singular and a hyphen (-) is used. *INCORRECT*: She has a *five years old* son.

*Adjectives never take a final ***-s***. *(INCORRECT: beautifuls pictures)* See Appendix Chart A-3, p. A4. Similarly, nouns used as adjectives never take a final ***-s***. *(INCORRECT: vegetables soup)*

☐ EXERCISE 7. Using nouns as modifiers. (Chart 7-3)

Directions: Complete the sentences with the words in parentheses. Use the singular or plural form as appropriate. Include hyphens (-) as necessary.

1. *(shoe)* They sell ___shoes___ at that store. It is a ___shoe___ store.
2. *(flower)* My garden has ______ in it. It is a ______ garden.
3. *(bean)* This soup is made from black ______. It is black ______ soup.
4. *(baby)* People can buy special food in small jars for ______. It is called ______ food.
5. *(child)* Dr. Adams is trained as a psychologist for ______. She is a ______ psychologist.
6. *(salad)* At a formal dinner, there are usually two forks on the table. The smaller fork is for ______. It is a ______ fork.
7. *(fax)* In our office we have a machine that sends and receives ______. It is called a ______ machine.
8. *(can)* A kitchen tool that opens ______ is called a ______ opener. *(potato)* A tool that peels ______ is called a ______ peeler.

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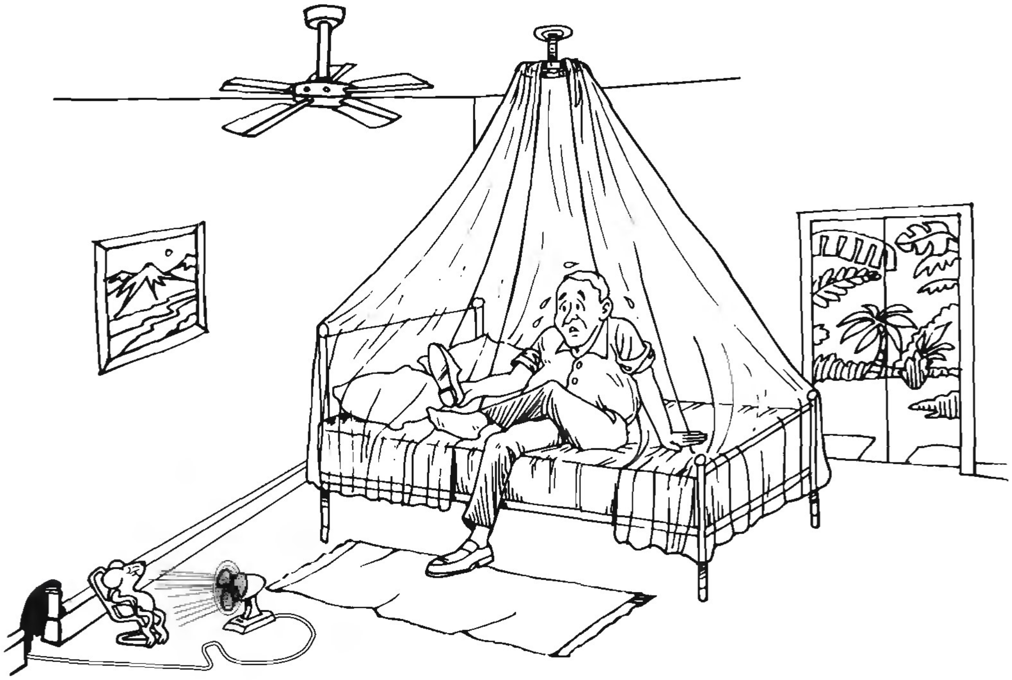
9. *(airplane)* Seats on ________________ are uncomfortable. ________________ seats should be made more comfortable and convenient for the passengers.

10. *(mosquito)* In tropical climates, sometimes it is necessary to hang a net over a bed to protect the sleeper from ________________. It is called a ________________ net.



11. *(two + hour)* The plane was late. We had a ____________________ wait. We had to wait for ____________________.

12. *(ten + year + old)* My brother is ________________________. I have a ________________________ brother.

13. *(ten + speed)* Joe can shift his bicycle into ____________ different ____________ . He has a ____________________ bike.

14. *(six + game)* The basketball team has won ____________________ in a row (i.e., they haven't lost one of their last six games). They have a ____________________ winning streak.

15. *(three + letter)* "Arm" and "dog" are ________________________ words. Each word has ________________________.

From Azar, B. S. (2002). Understanding and using English grammar: With answer key. Pearson Education.